

Our Review of Reviews.

Mr. Hausburg's Researches in Australia.

In the "London Philatelist," Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg begins the story of his "Philatelic Researches in Australia." Many topics of absorbing interest to collectors of Colonial stamps are touched upon. Taking the various Colonies in alphabetical order, Mr. Hausburg begins with New South Wales. Here he was disappointed in his desire to discover impressions of two plates of the 2d. "diadem" series, for none had been kept.

SOME N.S.W. PLATES

"I was shown," he writes, "the old steel plates of the 3d., 5d., and 5s. values; the first of these was actually being printed from during my visit. They are all three in a wonderful state of preservation, and none of them have ever been retouched."

"I also saw the die of the present 1d. stamp. This has been made by drilling out the lower corners and the word 'ONE' in the die of the 1d., 1862, De la Rue type, and inserting plugs with the figure '1' and the word 'HALF' in the corresponding places. Some of the old perforating machines have been altered several times from single-line to 'comb' machines, and again to perforate with the letter O S, etc., stamps for official correspondence."

N.S.W. PERFORATING MACHINES.

Mr. Hausburg gives the following list of the perforating machines now in use in New South Wales:

Maker's Name.	Nature of Perforation.
1. Harrild & Sons, single line, barely 12	(Used for the 3d.
2. " " " " " 11	5d., 5s. old type, and the later 10s. and 11).
3. " " " side comb, 12 by 11½	(perforating one vertical row at a time) formerly single line.
4. " " " ditto	ditto
5. " " " ditto	ditto
6. " " " G R single line.	ditto
7. John Close, of Sydney, O S and N S W	
8. " " " O S, barley 12	
9. J. G. Nash, of Adelaide, Horizontal comb, 12 by 11½	(used for 1d. value only).

"SECRET MARK" PAPER OF QUEENSLAND.

Mr. Hausburg next deals with his visit to Brisbane, Queensland. Here not much was to be found, as all the old dies, plates, stereotypes, and lithographic stones have been destroyed. "And this," he adds, "is perhaps just as well: there is no danger of any reprints appearing."

"During the course of conversation," remarks Mr. Hausburg, "mention was made of the paper with faintly impressed watermark Q and Crown, sometimes called the 'secret mark' paper. This Mr. Costin [of the Lithographic Department] assured me was not produced by any secret process, but was accidentally discovered when passing a wet sheet of plain paper along with a sheet of the Crown and Q paper through the press. The watermark was impressed on the plain paper, and it was afterwards found that the watermark could also be impressed if the paper was dry, and that as many as ten sheets of plain paper could be thus treated with one sheet of watermarked paper."

On the subject of Queensland perforations, Mr. Hausburg has much of interest to report, and we should advise every specialist of these stamps to secure and peruse the paper under notice. The instalment of the paper in the November issue of the London Society's journal concludes with the following:

LIST OF QUEENSLAND PERFORATING MACHINES.

1. Single-line hand machine, length 19½ inches, perforating (a) Rough holes, sometimes like pin-perfs., gauging about 13-13½.

- (b) Fitted with new pins perforating round holes, same gauge.
2. Single-line treadle machine, length 12½ inches.
 - (a) Perforating square clean-cut holes, gauging about 12½-12¾.
 - (b) Altered to (vertical) triple cutter or comb machine.
3. Single-line treadle machine, length 25 inches, perforating round holes gauging 12.
4. Single-line wheel machine, perforating round clean-cut holes gauging 9½.
5. (a) Vertical triple cutter or comb machine (treadle) gauging about 12¾.
- (b) Altered to single-line machine; same gauge.

The further chapters of Mr. Hausburg's most interesting narrative will be awaited with interest.

The Boom of the Boy Collector.

The "Australian Philatelist" is choke-full of good Philately, "Postage Dues printed in Sydney," by Mr. E. D. van Weenen, and a further instalment of Mr. Geo. Blockey's "Priced Catalogue of South Australian Stamps," are the principal articles in the November issue. The editorial article, "A Sign of the Times," is worthy of reproduction here:—

"The announcement that Messrs. Gibbons intend publishing at an early date a simplified catalogue for young collectors, the formation of a junior branch of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, the amazing progress of the Junior Philatelic Society of London, and the glowing reports received frequently from our local body, 'The Union Stamp Collecting Club,' all indicate that youths are an important factor in the future welfare of philately and that they should receive due consideration. At one time stamp collecting was supposed to be a hobby fit for boys only. It then went to the other extreme and beginners were neglected. Some 'seniors' seemed to think that 'crumbs' were good enough for young people, but we have been astonished to note the aptitude displayed by so-called novices. They have, however, asserted themselves and proved their claim to more attention. 'The young may die but the old must,' and if we wish to keep philately alive we must cultivate, and cater for, the desires of the junior collector more than has been done hitherto. We therefore welcome Messrs. Gibbons' determination, and cordially endorse the action of the Victorian Philatelic Society."

SAMOA EXPRESS: ORIGINALS AND REPRINTS.

In another portion of the "Australian Philatelist" an oft asked question is answered:—

"Several readers are anxious to know how to distinguish between original and reprint Samoa express stamps. All the originals, except the penny, are invariably imperforate on one side, and frequently on two. The 3d., 6d., 9d., 1s., 2s. and 5s. values were printed in two rows, and only perforated between each row. The pennies were printed in four rows, and perforated horizontally and vertically, except at the outside edges. The colours are deep, and altogether they have a more mature appearance than the reprints, which have a gaudy, garish, cotton-ball label kind of look. Most of the originals have a pen and ink cancellation showing the year '71, and some bear a Sydney postmark, either alone or in addition to the penmark. There was no 2d. value in the original set."

Pierre Mahe's "Good Bit of Business"

In "My Souvenirs," a serial paper he is contributing to "Gibbons' Monthly Journal," Mons. Pierre Mahé tells some good philatelic stories. In the latest of these he describes how, when employed at a printseller's, he was brought into touch with the Jesuit Fathers of the Rue des Postes and of the Seminary of Foreign Missions. He appealed to one of the reverend fathers to secure him certain of the stamps of Luzon (i.e. the Philippine Islands). The request was complied with, and Mahé obtained, at face value, twelve entire sheets of each of the two values, 1 real blue and 2 reales green, issue of 1854 and 1855, also about ten sheets of the 5 cuartos red, of 1862, with coarse network in the spandrels. "Need I say," he adds, "that these sheets went off as if by magic at the price of 400 francs each?"